

Requirements for a Claim

Even if a power surge or lightning strike damages electronics or appliances located in on-post housing, unless you do everything possible to protect your belongings (*i.e.*, use a surge protector) the Claims Office will be unable to compensate you for your loss.

Protect your belongings from power surges:

- Check the voltage of the electronic item or appliance and the voltage of the outlet before plugging in the item.
- Protect expensive electronics from power surges by connecting them to a surge protector.

WIESBADEN LEGAL CENTER & CLAIMS OFFICE

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY, TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
0900-1200 & 1300-1600

THURSDAY
1300-1600

POWER SURGES AND OUTAGES



Headquarters, US Army Europe
Wiesbaden Legal Center
Building 1023W, Room 223
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Power Surges

Using American Electronics in Germany

Electrical storms, sudden power interruptions, power surges, and accidentally plugging 110-volt appliances into 220-volt plugs can all damage or destroy sensitive electronic equipment. Losses caused by such occurrences are typically not payable claims under the Personnel Claims Act. Even if you are using a 110-volt outlet or a transformer, you should exercise caution when using American electronics and appliances in Germany. You should also ensure that you have sufficient personal property insurance to cover such losses.

Surge Protectors

You should safeguard electronic devices (e.g., computers, stereos, televisions, DVD players, video

game players, and other expensive items) by using surge protectors. Reliable surge protectors are available from AAFES or other local electronics stores. Reputable manufacturers of surge protectors often give a warranty against damage to property that occurs while one of their surge protectors is in use.



Computer Modems

Power may also surge through telephone lines by way of computer modems. If you use a modem, you may want to look for an integrated surge protector that contains an extra outlet for the telephone line. Surge sup-

pressors solely for connection to modems are also available.

Check For Proper Voltage

You should always check the voltage of an electrical device, the voltage of the power socket, and the polarity of the outlet before plugging in the device.

Power Outages or Failures

Claims that food was spoiled by a power outage may be considered, but only if the outage was of an unusually long duration. What is considered an unusual duration is determined by local climatic conditions. If you have a power outage, you are expected to minimize the damage by not repeatedly opening and closing your refrigerator.